

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Thank You to Contributors for the 9th Annual Picnic and the 50th Anniversary Gala

The 9th Annual Los Altos Hills Town Picnic was held on Sunday afternoon, June 4, 2006, at the Little League fields on Purissima Road. The event was the largest in the history of Los Altos Hills, as over 1,400 Town residents attended. A glass mug inscribed with the Town's 50th Anniversary logo was given to each adult in attendance at the Picnic. Some of the glass mugs are still available and may be obtained from Town Hall for a donation of \$3 for one or \$5 for two. Also, a few DVD copies of the wonderful video, "The Treasures of Los Altos Hills," which was produced by Nancy Traficanti as part of the Town's fiftieth anniversary celebration, are available at Town Hall for a donation of at least \$5 each.



The Community Relations Committee, which organized the Town Picnic, would like to acknowledge the donation of beverages for the Town Picnic — beer from Half Moon Bay Brewing Co. and wine from LAH local vintners, Belle Epoque, Molly's Vineyard and Byrne Park Winery.

The Committee would also like to acknowledge the generosity of many Town residents who contributed to the Town's 50th Anniversary Dinner Dance Gala held on January 27, 2006. Donations were: Reception wine courtesy of David & Liz Rome; designer linens courtesy of Amir & Dusanka Rosenbaum; floral centerpieces courtesy of Bob & Jan Fenwick; programs courtesy of Roger & Joelle Burrell; dinner wines courtesy of the Coppers, Jurvetson, Harpoottian, Moolo, Price & Warshawsky Association; and dessert wine courtesy of Harry & Karen Emerzian.

Finally, the Community Relations Committee wishes to thank the residents of the Town for supporting all of the events this year and in so doing - keeping the "spirit of the Hills" alive and well!



"Ready for the Paint Police?" is Sept. 24 Los Altos Hills Historical Society Topic

"Ready for the Paint Police?" is architect Carroll Rankin's title for his presentation at the LAH Historical Society's Sept. 24 meeting, 3-5 pm at Town Hall. He will be describing the work that got Palo Alto's Eichler-built Greenmeadows and Green Gables neighborhoods listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Carroll Rankin is a local architect who worked as project manager on such projects as Foothill and DeAnza Colleges, Gunn and Avanti High Schools, and the Superior Court Building in San Jose; to list a few of his favorites. He now spends his time on such things as talking about historic preservation.

A discussion and refreshment period will follow the presentation.

Backyard Summer Plays at "Camp Vanderlip"



In the 4 past years Tay & Scott Vanderlip, who reside on Fremont Pine Lane have hosted American musical theater productions — including The Wizard of Oz, Mary Poppins, You're A Good Man Charlie Brown and this summer Sound of Music. Kids from Santa Rita School and Bellis Charter School participated. Neighbors, family and friends look forward to each summer's performance. Scott arranges and plays the music, with help from other parents who make the wonderful costumes.

LOS ALTOS HILLS

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

ADOBE CREEK COLLABORATIVE

Progress on Adobe Creek Reach 5

For nearly three years now, work has been progressing by an informal collaborative organization to achieve consensus on a design for the future of this stretch of Adobe Creek just downstream of Edith Avenue. The collaborative is composed of representatives from the Santa Clara Valley Water District, creekside residents of both Los Altos Hills and Los Altos, town representatives from both towns, as well as four government agencies from whom permits will be required. Tentative agreement has now been reached on a conceptual design for the future of this part of the creek.



Known as Alternative 8, the design is intended to correct or control erosion and flooding problems and enhance the environment in a manner that is acceptable to all the stakeholders. Improvements are scheduled to be constructed in 2008 if no more serious hurdles are encountered during detailed design and the government funding is forthcoming. More information about this effort and the current plan may be seen on the collaborative's website at <http://www.lahopenspace.com/Adobe5>.

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Election Information



<http://www.smartvoter.org/ca/state/>

Information About the
Election on November 7, 2006

LOS ALTOS HILLS



Los Altos Hills

TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XLIX No. 3 September 2006

CALENDAR

October 7, 8 Sat.,
Sun., Fall Festival 10
AM-5 PM; Info. 948-
1455

OCTOBER 23,
Monday — Last day to
register to vote for the
November 7 election.
Forms available by
calling City Clerk at
650-941-7222

October 28, Satur-
day, 9AM - Pacific
Ridge Pony Club 14th
Annual Halloween
Horse Show Fund
Raise, Westwind Barn;
Raisine class 12Noon;
Lunch & Snacks for
sale.

November 17, Friday
Holiday Stroll Los
Altos, 5 PM. Info. 948-
1455

Mark Your Calendar!



January 10, 2007
Living with Wildlife --
Meet the Owls.
Informational Meeting
at Town Hall; 7:30 PM-
9:30PM; Info. 941-4808

SCHOOL DISTRICT REORGANIZATION PETITION

Our Town has embarked on an effort to create a new elementary school district, which will be available to all of our children in grades K through 8. Our children will be able to attend elementary school in town, with their neighbors, and we will strengthen the sense of community for all. (See Map in Insert - currently no public school in Town boundaries.)

Specifically the petition calls for the creation of a new K-8 school district covering all of the Hills. This district would control the remaining school sites in Town. This district would have its own elected school board, which would have as its sole mission the education of our public school children through the 8th grade. As such, we would be on par with Woodside (population: 5,350) and Portola Valley (population: 4,600), both of which are smaller than Los Altos Hills (population 7,900) and both of which have their own neighborhood elementary school.

We anticipate that students currently in school at the time reorganization ballot passes at the polls will have the option of being "grandfathered in" to continue attendance at their current elementary schools. That is a standard practice under the State code (law) that defines the reorganization process.

The petition further calls for our high school students to remain in the attendance area of Gunn High School (PAUSD) and Los Altos or Mountain View High Schools (MVL), effectively using the current attendance boundaries.

PAUSD, in a letter to LAH residents, suggests that reorganizing is some kind of Pandora's Box where virtually anything can happen. Actually the process is governed by the California Education Code; and only those solutions will be implemented that are supported by law, waiver, and/or special legislation the County/State, and, ultimately, LAH voters. None of you have to worry about losing access to Gunn in this process.

NEXT STEPS

The petition goes first to the SCCOE (Santa Clara County Office of Education) where it is assigned to a special committee that deals with reorganization requests, the County Committee for School District Organization ("County Committee"). We expect some back-and-forth activity as the County Committee does its work.

First, the County must determine whether the petition has merit and due consideration. The County has indicated a hearing on this matter will occur on December 7, 2006.

Second, the County staff and Committee must study the reorganization options and make a substantive decision.

Third, there is an opportunity to appeal to the State Board of Education to adopt or reject the plan.

Finally, the voters of Los Altos Hills must approve any proposed reorganization through an election. The County Superintendent, Dr. Colleen Wilcox has estimated the reorganization process could take anywhere from 18 months to 4 years. (See Flow Chart in Insert.)

During this time voters in our Town will be given many opportunities to hear from your City Council on the progress of the petition and to give us input at our City Council meetings.

If you wish to give input or volunteer on this subject please contact City Clerk Karen Jost at Town Hall, 650-941-7222 or email her at kjost@losaltoshills.ca.gov.

LOS ALTOS HILLS

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

ACTING CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Dear Residents:

After completing an extensive executive search utilizing the services of a professional recruitment firm, the City Council has appointed me to serve as your City Manager. The position is an awesome responsibility and I am honored to be selected. The Town staff and I will continue to do our best to efficiently deliver municipal services to you the residents.



Acting City Manager & Planning Director Carl Cahill

Senior Planner Debbie Pedro, who has been with the Town for four years, has been appointed to serve as the Town's Planning and Building Director. Debbie has a Bachelor's degree in architecture from UC Berkeley and a Master's degree in urban planning from San Jose State. She is also an AICP-certified planner. All of us here are looking forward to working with Debbie in her new position.

The City Council continued a longstanding Town tradition of fiscal prudence by closing out the previous fiscal year with a small budget surplus and adopting an overall 11 million dollar budget for this coming fiscal year. See Town Finance Director's Sarah Regade's report in this newsletter for more detail on the Town's revenue picture and on how your tax dollars are assiduously put to work.

This past quarter the City Council awarded contracts totaling \$1.08 million dollars for Town street improvements. These improvements include the El Monte Road and Page Mill Road street rehab program (\$652K), the annual street resurfacing and street improvement program (\$430K). The El Monte Road street rehab project encompasses that section of roadway between Stonebrook Drive and Moody Road. The Page Mill Road project encompasses roadway segments between Berry Hill Lane and Country Way, and between Matevale Creek Lane up to the Town boundary north of Altamont Road. The annual street resurfacing and street improvement program includes various public streets that were identified for improvement by the Town's Pavement Management System program. These major capital projects are scheduled to get underway in September. If you would like more information on the Town's street improvement program, please contact City Engineer Henry Louis hlois@losaltoshills.ca.gov. Also under construction at this time is the .25 mile Segment 1A of the El Monte Avenue/Moody Road Pathway project. This is the first of three pathway segments that will ultimately provide a safer pedestrian connection between Foothill College parking areas and the Duveneck Windmill Trailhead off Rhin Ridge Road.

As of February 2006, it is against State law for residents to dispose of "Universal Waste" in their common trash receptacles. Universal wastes are hazardous wastes that are generated by a wide variety of people every day. Universal waste may not be discarded in solid waste landfills. Scientists at the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) have found that these wastes will leak toxic substances, mostly metals, in a typical landfill. Some examples of universal waste include: fluorescent

lights, household batteries and certain types of electronic waste (television, computer monitors and related computer peripherals). The City Council responded quickly to this new law by adopting a Los Altos Garbage Company proposal to host twice-annual universal waste collection events concurrent with the existing yard waste collection program at Foothill College. The next collection event is scheduled for October 28th. The Council also approved a LACCo proposal to expand curbside recycling services by accepting most types of household type batteries. Residents may place their spent batteries in clear plastic ziplock bags and place the bags next to their recycling container for collection. No increase in garbage rates for these new services is proposed at this time.

— Carl Cahill, City Manager

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Fall & Winter Program Registration

The Town's Parks and Recreation Department began registration of the Fall and Winter programs. Registration for Los Altos Hills residents began Wednesday, August 9 and registration for non-residents began Monday, August 21. Late registration is being accepted for classes that are open. For more information on the Recreation Department's programs, call the Recreation Department at 650-941-7222 Ext. 241.

LOS ALTOS HILLS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT

Expansion of Brush Chipping Program

The LAH County Fire District is expanding the brush-chipping program from once per year to twice per year. Next year, the brush chipping will take place in January '07 and July '07.

Residents will receive a letter regarding the first new program in December '06 with chipping scheduled for January '07. (Starting: 1/1/07 thru 6/30/07)

The second program will be repeated again in June '07 with chipping in July '07. (Starting: 7/1/07 thru 12/31/07)

Be prepared to receive a letter with a card to return requesting chipping in December 2006. Chipping appointments will be made by the contractor for January 2007.

The chipping program is very successful and meets the needs to reduce potentially dangerous fuel from brush and tree branches.

For Council Agenda and Minutes,
See our Website:
www.losaltoshills.ca.gov

Volume XLIX No. 3 September 2006

PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I am very honored and thrilled to begin my new position as the Planning Director. Over the last few months, we have completed a number of significant projects:

INCENTIVES FOR SOLAR PANELS - For those of you thinking about installing a photovoltaic system for your home, the Council has recently adopted several ordinances to promote energy conservation through the use of solar panels.

- Free Building Permits (Reso. 1-06) - Building permit fees are waived for the construction or installation of solar energy generation equipment.

- Development Area Exemption (Ord. 446) - If you install a ground mounted photovoltaic system, up to 500 sq. ft. of the solar panels may be exempt from development area calculations.

- Development Area Bonus (Ord. 500) - If you install a roof mounted solar system, you may qualify for up to 500 sq. ft. of bonus development area.

To find out more, please contact the Planning Department at (650) 941-7222.

IMPROVED WIRELESS COVERAGE AT TOWN HALL - As you walk or drive by Town Hall, you may have noticed a new "tree" that has sprung up next to the Heritage House. The wireless communications facility consists of Circular's wireless panel antennas as well as the Town's emergency communications antennas. The 70' tall tower is disguised as a pine tree to help it blend in with the surrounding environment and will improve the cell coverage for Circular customers within an approximately 3/4 mile radius.

EUCALYPTUS TREE ORDINANCE - The City Council has just adopted an ordinance requiring removal of eucalyptus trees that are within 150' of any structures or roadways. The ordinance will apply to additions or remodel totaling 1,200 sq. ft. or more. Eucalyptus trees are invasive, non-native trees that are potential fire hazards. In addition, the shallow root structures of these tall trees make them unsuitable around the vicinity of structures or roadways. The following six species of eucalyptus are known for their propensity to drop limbs and susceptible to pest attacks and are subject to removal at the time of site development approval:

1. Blue Gum (E. globulus)
2. Pink Ironbark (E. sideroxylon rosea)
3. River Red Gum (E. camaldulensis)
4. Swamp Gum (E. radia)
5. Honey Gum (E. melliodora)
6. Manna Gum (E. viminalis)

MORE AMBIGUOUS TERMINOLOGY (HIGHLY VISIBLE LOTS) REMOVED FROM TOWN CODES - At their July 27th meeting, the City Council determined that "highly visible lots", as currently referenced in Section 10-2.702 of the Town Site Development Ordinance, could not be accurately defined. The Council ordered the ambiguous reference to be removed from the Code. No new or additional restrictions on homes were approved.

Looking ahead, our department has a number of significant long range projects on the agenda, including the comprehensive General Plan update, and several ordinance amendments. Additionally, our staff will continue our commitment to provide efficient and effective services to applicants and residents in the development permit process.

I look forward to hearing from you in the days and months ahead. Whether you have any comments, concerns, or just want to say hello, please feel free to contact me by email at dpedro@losaltoshills.ca.gov or by phone at 650-941-7222.

— Debbie Pedro, Planning Director

City Council - New Meeting Time

The LAH City Council has established a new meeting time (6:30 PM) that will begin with the September meetings. Public Hearings and Presentations from the Floor will start at 7PM.



Debbie Pedro, Planning Director

NEW WESTWIND COMMUNITY BARN COMMITTEE APPOINTED

A new 11-member standing committee of the Town has been formed to "serve as an advisory body to the Council on matters related to Westwind Community Barn" and to "assist in the planning, development, and implementation of a Master Plan for the facility and associated space."

The Committee will also make recommendations to Council for funding sources (i.e. State Park Bond monies and privately-raised monies from the Supporters of Westwind Community Barn) for the renovation and restoration of the Barn.

Current programs at Westwind, such as boarding, 4-H Riding for the Handicapped, Pacific Ridge Pony Club, and Parks & Recreation year round riding classes, will remain in place. Consideration may be given to expanding riding opportunities to residents who do not own horses. One such opportunity might be a trail-riding program, which takes advantage of Westwind's proximity to off-road pathways and open space.

The new committee is composed of the following individuals:

Councilman Jean Morda, Chair; Councilman Breene Kerr, Vice-Chair; Doreen Andriacchi (Town resident); Nancy Couperns (Westwind 4-H); Shari Emling (Town resident); John Harpootian (Planning Commissioner); Jane Kawasaki (FSR Year-Round Riding); Susan Lam (Westwind Boarder); Val Metcalfe (Parks & Recreation and Supporters); Jeanne Sealey (Supporters); John Swan (Town resident).

Presentation of Colors - New Ceremony



Pictured above: On July 27, 2006 the Assistant Scout Master David Su assembled Jamshed Vesuna and Scott Greathouse to present the colors. Certificates of Appreciation are presented to each scout by the Mayor.

On June 28, 2006 Mr. Robin Joy from Troop 33 assembled a group to present the colors and lead the assembly with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Scouts were Jeremy Alcare, Devin Joy, Jon Bum, Alex Carr, & Alex Dunn.

Open Space Committee Report

LAH RESIDENTS HELPING WITH WILDLIFE STUDY

The LAH Open Space Committee's Wildlife Subcommittee is meeting with some of the many wildlife survey respondents who volunteered to help describe the habits and movement of wildlife in their neighborhoods. These LAH residents are providing information that will be useful in understanding how deer, fox, bobcats, and other animals move about the town.

Wildlife move throughout our Town along already existing natural passageways, particularly in riparian areas (streams, creeks, and drainage areas) which provide food sources, shelter and passage for many different species. Most corridors are found in already protected Open Space Conservation Areas. But identifying the most important of these is key to understanding which are the most valuable natural passageways.

One of the goals of the Wildlife Study is to enable Town planners to rely on credible expert analysis and to enable developers and homeowners to know in advance which areas are sensitive.

In furtherance of the goal of preserving a rural environment, the Town's General Plan calls for "protecting and maintaining those areas necessary to the integrity of natural resources... with special emphasis on... open spaces for wildlife habitat."

Maintaining natural corridors will help keep animals healthy and wild (and off of the roadways), while minimizing contact with humans, allowing them to continue living among us in as natural a state as possible.



Town Newsletter - Statement of Purpose

To communicate current issues, services, and activities in Los Altos Hills to the residents of the Town and to facilitate, encourage and improve interaction between the residents and Town government. The 2006 Newsletter will be published quarterly in the months of March, June, September, and December. Deadline for the next issue is October 31, 2006.

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About Our Publication

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Los Altos Hills City Council

Doreen Andriacchi, Mayor • City Engineer, Henry Louis • Town Boarder, Kari • Jane Morda • Mike O'Malley



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